

Message Text

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17

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10

LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03

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R 051804Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1000

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

UESRP/AMEMBASSY PRAGUE 0465

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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TAGS: ELAB, XT, EEC

SUBJECT: A TUC REACTION TO COPENHAGEN

REF: BRUSSELS 3754

1. THE FIRST REACTION BY A TOP TUC LEADER TO THE ETUC CONGRESS IN COPENHAGEN HAS COME FROM JACK JONES, CHAIRMAN OF THE TUC INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE AND THE MAJOR FORCE BEHIND ITS CURRENT INTERNATIONAL POLICY.

2. IN A BRIEF CONVERSATION WITH THE EMBASSY LABOR ATTACHE ON JUNE 5, JONES MADE WHAT HE TERMED A "VERY PRAGMATIC" ASSESSMENT OF THE ETUC AND ITS CONGRESS. HE SAID HE WAS HAPPY THAT "WE HAVE SUCCEEDED IN GETTING THE ORGANIZATION TO LOOK OUTWARD" (BEYOND THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY FRAMEWORK). HE FELT, HE SAID, THAT THE ENLARGEMENT OF THE ORGANIZATION TO INCLUDE THE CHRISTIAN TRADE UNIONS ALSO REPRESENTED PROGRESS (ALTHOUGH HE THOUGHT THAT THE VERY LARGE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, WHICH WAS ESTABLISHED TO ACCOMMODATE THE NEW MEMBERS, MADE THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE ORGANIZATION TOO UNWIELDY.)

3. JONES EMPHASIZED THAT THE MAJOR PROBLEM FOR THE ETUC IS THAT "IT MAY TAKE A VERY LONG TIME TO FIND ITSELF." FOR ITS PART, THE TUC HAS NO ILLUSIONS (IN TERMS OF SPECTACULAR DEVELOPMENT) BUT THAT "AS IN THE CASE OF THE ICFTU, THE ETUC IS THERE, AND WE MUST GIVE OUR SUPPORT TO THEM." AS FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS, JONES THOUGHT IT VERY LIKELY THAT THE ITALIAN CGIL WILL BE ADMITTED INTO ETUC MEMBERSHIP IN JULY, BUT HE DID NOT ENVISAGE THAT THE FRENCH CGT OR EASTERN EUROPEAN UNIONS WOULD FOLLOW IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE.

4. THE TUC LEADER IS NOT UNAWARE THAT DEVELOPMENTS IN EUROPE HAD CONSIDERABLE IMPACT ON THE AFL-CIO, PARTICULARLY WHERE THEY INVOLVED ASSOCIATION OR MEMBERSHIP OF COMMUNIST TRADE UNION CENTERS. HE IS IN FACT VERY SENSITIVE ABOUT THE COOLNESS WHICH HAS EXISTED -- LARGELY OVER THE TUC'S INTERNATIONAL OPENING TO THE LEFT -- BETWEEN THE TWO ORGANIZATIONS. JONES ALSO INDICATED, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT FOLLOWING TALKS HE HAD EARLIER IN THE YEAR WITH AFL-CIO OFFICIALS (REF LONDON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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3348); "A STEP, A SMALL STEP, BUT A STEP FORWARD" HAS BEEN TAKEN IN DEEPENING THE DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE TWO ORGANIZATIONS. IT WAS AT HIS SUGGESTION, HE SAID, THAT THE AFL-CIO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HAS DECIDED TO BREAK PRECEDENT THIS YEAR BY OPENING ITS MEETING OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL (SCHEDULED FOR LATE JUNE) TO THE AFL-CIO FRATERNAL DELEGATION WHICH WILL BE VISITING LONDON AT THAT TIME.

5. COMMENT: JONES' ASSESSMENT OF THE CONGRESS APPEARS TO BEAR OUT THAT OF CHRISTIAN UNION LEADER JEAN KULAKOWSKI IN EC BRUSSELS' EXCELLENT RETROSPECTIVE OF THE CONGRESS (REFTEL). HOWEVER, THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT THE SOMEWHAT LESS THAN SPECTACULAR DEVELOPMENT OF THE ETUC WILL NECESSARILY PROVIDE A NEW LEASE ON LIFE FOR THE ICFTU. WHILE THE TUC SAYS THAT IT WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE ICFTU, IT WILL NOT INCREASE ITS INTEREST IN THE LATTER SIMPLY BECAUSE OF THE SLOW PROGRESS MADE BY THE NEW EUROPEAN CONFEDERATION. (IN OUR VIEW, A REVIVED ICFTU CAN ONLY COME ABOUT IF THE AFL-CIO REJOINS IT, WHICH IS VERY UNLIKELY AT THIS POINT.) ONE CAN EVAS SPECUIATE, WITH AT LEAST SOME JUSTIFICATION, THAT THE BRITISH MAY NOT IN FACT WANT TO SEE A TRULY POWERFUL EUROPEAN ORGANIZATION, DESPITE THE RHETORIC OF ITS PUBLIC DECLARATIONS. ANNENBERG

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